



Fifteenth Annual Celebrating Leadership in Education Awards Ceremony

Honoring the:

- New Hampshire Recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching
- New Hampshire Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists, Finalists and the New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

December 15, 2016

Every day a New Hampshire teacher makes a difference in the life of a child. Every year the NH Department of Education honors outstanding educators who make their communities, profession, and the world a better place.

Program

Welcome Reception

Emcee - Allyssa Miner, Senior
Laconia High School

Welcome and Remarks by Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

Remarks by Ashley Preston
2016 NH Teacher of the Year

Dinner

NH Presidential Award for Excellence in
Mathematics and Science Teaching

Remarks by Jean-Marie Beauchemin
Hannaford Supermarkets

NH Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists,
Finalists, and Teacher of the Year

Remarks by Tate Aldrich
2017 NH Teacher of the Year

Close

Message from Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D. New Hampshire's Commissioner of Education

Tonight, at the fifteenth Annual Celebrating Leadership in Education Awards Ceremony, we honor educators who are working to provide a quality education to each student in New Hampshire. While all classroom teachers should be recognized on a daily basis, the New Hampshire Department Education annually honors exemplary educators through various recognition programs.

We are proud to be able to recognize their outstanding attributes that inspire students with a love of learning, their excellent teaching and best practices, their professional leadership, their engagement with families and the community, and their commitment to their profession and students. Promotion of educator recognition awards goes a long way towards keeping New Hampshire's teachers engaged and excited about education. Properly guided, awards programs can reach out to stakeholders and strengthen positive messages about the teaching profession. By recognizing the importance of outstanding educators we hope to encourage more people to consider a career in education and retain talented people.

There are thousands of excellent educators deserving of recognition and gratitude. For this work I want to thank you and so many other incredible New Hampshire teachers for the positive role they play in improving our children's lives and our state's future. NH educators, staff, and volunteers should be very proud of the direction our State is taking in preparing students not just for college, but for careers and the military.

If students are to succeed, they must be inspired to believe in themselves. With appropriate support, students are able to be actively engaged in their learning, and can begin to see the connection between what they learn today and who they want to become tomorrow. As I have visited schools across New Hampshire I have been encouraged by the innovation, personalization and the multiple paths to learning that I have witnessed. Schools across New Hampshire are demonstrating that all students can achieve success in learning with outstanding educators and communities at their side

The real stories here are the teachers; they are the true heroes that focus on our children and state's future. These educators recognize the critical connection between successful students and educator excellence, and give their time and ideas to improve our educational system. We are proud to acknowledge the vision and dedication that these New Hampshire educators bring to their profession. Each one of these outstanding individuals has made an impact on the lives of their students and the profession of teaching.

Thank you for the work you do each day to create engaging, authentic, safe and exciting learning experiences for our young people as we continue to focus on transforming education. The Department of Education would like to applaud the outstanding achievements of these recipients.

Ashley Preston

2016 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

Ashley Preston is in her tenth year of teaching, all of them in the Manchester School District. Ashley looks at the whole child and sees the gains they made and then looks at ways to help them continue to grow and make progress. She believes that preschool matters and early childhood education is important and takes every opportunity to show what her students are capable of despite how young they are. She says she feels fortunate that she can be their voice, help them gain the recognition they deserve and prove their learning is valuable no matter what it looks like from the outside.

Presidential Award for

Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

The PAEMST is administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on behalf of the White House. Established by Congress in 1983, the Presidential Awards are the Nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science. The Awards recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession as well as acknowledge educators who are models in both their

classrooms and in their communities. In addition this award provides positive examples for pupils and peers alike.

The teachers receiving these awards are recognized for greatly improving their students' understanding in science and mathematics, for exemplary teaching, and for demonstrating educational goals that help them maintain positions of professional leadership. The goal of the program is to encourage highly capable individuals to enter and remain in the teaching field.

The competition alternates each year between teachers of grades K-6 and grades 7-12. After an initial selection process at the State level, a national panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators recommends teachers to receive a national PAEMST. Winners at the national level receive a \$10,000 award from NSF, as well as a trip for two to Washington, D.C., for a week of celebratory events and professional development activities.

About the NH Recipient – Mathematics

Ann Gaffney

School: Londonderry Middle School

Teaching Experience: 14 years

Dr. Ann Gaffney has been teaching grades 6 through 8 at Londonderry Middle School since 1997. During this time, Ann has taught mathematics, science, reading, and enrichment programs. She has developed curriculum and provided academic coaching to other teachers. She currently works with the school's highest achieving math students and those students who need additional mathematics support.

Ann firmly believes that students of all ability levels develop their understanding of mathematics through their experiences wrestling with mathematical ideas and problems. This belief is evident throughout her classroom teaching. Student discourse is a key component of Ann's lessons. She challenges her students to present their ideas, critically investigate those ideas, and come up with generalizations based on their findings. In the lesson featured in her PAEMST video, Ann facilitated student discussions as students shared formulae they discovered for finding the area of various two-dimensional figures.

Students examined the various methods they used when developing their formulae and eventually determined that their formulae were all mathematically equivalent to each other.

Ann's research interests focus on the professional development of in-service teachers, particularly in the area of mathematics teaching and learning. Ann's work has been presented at workshops and conferences locally and at the international level. She has also taught courses to current and pre-service teachers as an adjunct faculty member at local universities. Ann is passionate about helping students and teachers discover joy in the learning, teaching, and understanding of mathematical concepts.

Ann earned a B.A. in mathematics, cum laude, from Wellesley College, an M.Ed. in elementary education from Lesley University, and an Ed.D. in leadership and learning from Rivier University. In addition to her elementary education teaching credential for kindergarten through eighth grade, Ann is certified to teach earth/space science grades 7-12 and holds three mathematics-specific credentials making her a mathematics content specialist grades K-12.

Stephanie Gleeson

Moultonborough School

Teaching Experience: 11 years

Stephanie Gleeson teaches three sections of third grade math daily. She embraces and teaches the growth mindset for learning mathematics in her heterogeneous classes. Through explicit instruction about the benefits of mistakes, students willingly take risks, try various strategies, and critique their own thinking and the thinking of others. When students learn from misconceptions, they yell out in chorus, "Light bulb!" celebrating their learning.

To help students better understand the concept of what fractions represent, Stephanie related their understanding to real world connections through active discovery. Students manipulated fractions, asked questions and collaboratively explored fractions to be able to identify and defend their value.

Stephanie has taught first through fourth grade for 11 years. She served on the district math and science curriculum committee for three years and is currently a teacher leader in her K-12 district's implementation of Common Core curricula. Stephanie leads the district in the implementation of Eureka Math and how to shift the sense-making from the teacher to the students. This past summer, Stephanie presented on the mathematical shifts in the Common Core Standards at Leading Educators' national conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. Stephanie earned her B.S. in Psychology and K-8 Elementary Education at Keene State College.

New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

Each year since 1952, New Hampshire schools have taken part in the State and National Teacher of the Year Program. Educators are selected from any New Hampshire state-approved or accredited school, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, if they are planning to continue in an active teaching status. Anyone can nominate an outstanding teacher. The purpose of the program is to select a teacher who is worthy of speaking for and energizing the teaching profession, and representing the positive contributions of all teachers statewide. The Teacher of the Year serves as a leader and ambassador for all the outstanding teachers devoted to the highest level of student learning. He or she has the respect and admiration of their colleagues and:

- Is an expert in their field who guides students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence.
- Collaborates with colleagues, students, and families to create a school culture of respect and success.
- Deliberately connects the classroom and key stakeholders to foster a strong community at large.
- Demonstrates leadership and innovation in and outside of the classroom walls that embodies lifelong learning.
- Expresses themselves in an engaging and articulate way.

In New Hampshire, Hannaford Supermarkets is proud to partner with the Department of Education to help sponsor the New Hampshire Teacher

of the Year (NH TOY) program. "Hannaford is proud to recognize and celebrate the teaching profession and to honor the valued role teachers play in our communities," said NH TOY Committee Member and Hannaford Field Merchandiser, Jean-Marie Beauchemin.

"Congratulations to all the teachers being recognized tonight and thank you to all New Hampshire teachers for their commitment to their profession and their advocacy for their students."

The National Teacher of the Year program, run by the Council of Chief State School Officers and presented by Voya Financial, identifies exceptional teachers in the country, recognizes their effective work in the classroom, amplifies their voices, and empowers them to participate in policy discussions at the state and national levels. It is the oldest and most prestigious honors program to focus public attention on excellence in teaching.

About the Recipient

Tate Aldrich

Laconia High School

Experience: Eight Years

Tate Aldrich is in his eighth year of teaching, all of them have been at Laconia High School. The selection committee recognized his ability to connect with students and help them achieve at high levels. He knows where his students are and how far he can push them. He also holds himself to a higher standard. Tate is also a dedicated teacher leader in his work with colleagues.

After graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in English Teaching from the University of New Hampshire, Tate Aldrich returned to his alma mater, Laconia High School, to give back to his hometown. There, he coached soccer, basketball, and lacrosse; he advised the Sophomore class, the Gay Straight Alliance, and the National Honor Society; he taught classes of all grades and levels; and in 2015, he was promoted to English Department Chair.

As a Department Chair, Tate led the effort to align Laconia High School's English curriculum vertically and horizontally. He facilitated

collaborative work toward common Performance Based Assessments and Final Exams. As part of the department's "1:1 computing initiative," Tate modeled the Flipped Classroom for his department members.

And it was while serving in this new leadership position that Tate's dream was realized: he'd create a coalition of business owners, community leaders, and volunteers to help ameliorate the social scourges of his city. New Hampshire's opioid endemic is no secret—nor is Laconia's food insecurity. Over 60% of his district's student body qualifies for free or reduced lunch. In 2016, Tate's new partnerships serve to launch a community Spelling Bee. Price of admission was a non-perishable food item, which helped the local, philanthropic organization "Got Lunch!" feed underprivileged children during their summer vacations. The event served to provide context for Laconia's students' accomplishments and set a precedent for school-community partnerships.

Tate hopes to continue serving his hometown of Laconia, New Hampshire and to continue modeling civic literacy for his students.

2017 NH Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists

- Greg Amend, Vilas Middle School , Alstead, English/Reading
- Bonnie Painchaud, Loudon Elementary School, Fifth Grade
- Amy Steinberg, Lincoln Street School, Exeter, Fifth Grade

2017 NH Teacher of the Year Finalists

- Elizabeth Alexakos, Clark Wilkins School, Amherst, First Grade
- Christine Broadley, North Walpole School, Second Grade
- Nicole Canney, Pinkerton Academy, Derry, English
- Jill Pennington, Campbell High School, Litchfield, Performing Arts

*The New Hampshire Department of Education
wishes to thank Hannaford Supermarkets for their continued support
of the New Hampshire Teacher of the Year Program.*



The mission of the Department of Education is to provide educational leadership and services that promote equal educational opportunities and quality practices and programs that enable New Hampshire residents to become fully productive members of society.